



EPA's Lower Manhattan Test and Clean Program

TESTING AND RESULTS

TESTING

During the testing, EPA contractors will be taking air samples and samples of dust on surfaces. The air samples will be analyzed for asbestos and MMVF. The dust will be tested for lead and PAHs in addition to asbestos and MMVF. In some cases EPA may observe and record primary sources of these contaminants in the form of lead-based paint or asbestos-containing commercial products.

Within individual units and common areas, dust will be collected from two types of areas.

- Accessible areas: People can be readily exposed to the dust in these areas, which include floors, tables and countertops.
- Infrequently accessed areas: People are not often exposed to the dust in these areas, which include the tops of bookshelves and under or behind refrigerators.

The air test takes approximately 8 hours. The pump is noisy. A fan will be operated in each unit tested to simulate activity in the household and prevent dust from settling. This enables the filter to capture fibers that may be in a person's breathing zone. Access to your apartment is required during the 8 hour period to monitor the sampling pumps. When testing is

done, you will be asked to inspect your residence with the contractor and sign a sampling completion form.

RESULTS

You will receive a clearance letter from EPA, along with your sample results, if no cleaning is necessary.

If the sample results indicate a cleanup is necessary, an EPA representative will call you to explain the results and offer to clean and conduct a survey to discover obvious sources of contamination such as lead-based paint, asbestos containing commercial products etc. In some cases, sources of contamination will have been observed and noted during the sampling.

EPA will not give out confidential information about an individual or their home to anyone other than EPA and its contractors without written consent, or unless the law requires it. EPA will make building information available to the building owner and others upon request.

If you have elevated levels of lead in your building, you or the owner of your building may have legal responsibilities under New York City law. You can view information on those responsibilities at:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/homeowners/lead_paint.shtml

(OVER)

To register, call 1-888-747-7725



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PREPARATION FOR TESTING

You must prepare before sampling actually begins. The sampling itself takes one work day. Contractors must remain at the work location to monitor the sampling equipment.

To prepare for sampling, you should:

- inform the contractor of applicable building rules such as time restrictions, appropriate entrances to the building, elevator usage, etc. or conditions that may interfere with sampling, etc.
- ensure the contractor can gain access to the sampling areas at the scheduled time if you will not be present.
- remove valuable and/or fragile objects from your home or building, or secure them in sealed containers for protection before the scheduled testing day.

- make sure you have identified in writing those objects that cannot be moved or secured, or that require special handling. Discuss this list with the contractor prior to the start of the testing. State in writing the estimated value of the objects listed.
- make arrangements for children to be out of the residence during the scheduled testing.
- remove pets from your home. Fish and pets in aquariums or terrariums need not be moved out of the home.

If you must cancel the appointment, notify the sampling contractor as early as possible, but no later than one business day before the scheduled date for the sampling in your unit or building. Please see the Cancellation Policy.